IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the actuator comprises ~~A driver assembly for a panel loudspeaker, the driver assembly comprising~~ a voice coil, a magnet assembly~~,~~ and a substantially rigid planar member, the coupler being configured to retain ~~and a retaining element for retaining~~ the magnet assembly with respect to the voice coil, ~~wherein the retaining element~~ the coupler defininges a first surface configured ~~adapted~~ to be removably coupled to ~~a panel forming an~~ the acoustic radiator, and the substantially rigid planar member being ~~is~~ attached to the voice coil and being ~~is~~ disposed between the voice coil and ~~said~~ the first surface.

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 38, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the retaining element~~ the gel comprises ~~consists of~~ a hydrogel.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 4 wherein retaining element consists of a material having~~ the coupler has a Shore A hardness between substantially ~~in the range~~ 5 and substantially ~~to~~ 15.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 5 wherein retaining element consists of a material having~~ the coupler has a Shore A hardness of substantially ~~approximately~~ 10.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the retaining element functions~~ the coupler is operative to retain the voice coil and the magnet assembly in a spatially separated relationship.

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the retaining element~~ the coupler consists of a single moulded element.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein~~ the magnet assembly comprises an axially extending central portion defining a first pole of a permanent magnet~~,~~ and a radially extending portion coupling the central portion to an axially extending magnetic shroud, the shroud defining a second pole of the permanent magnet~~,~~ ~~wherein~~ and the central portion and the shroud defininge a flux space therebetween.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 10, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 10 wherein~~ the voice coil extends into the flux space.

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 10, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 10 wherein~~ the flux space is substantially annular.

13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the retaining element~~ the coupler comprises a disc defining the first surface.

14. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 13, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the retaining element~~ the coupler comprises a wall upstanding from an opposing surface of the disc.

15. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein~~ a volume defined by the coupler ~~retaining element~~ accommodates the magnet assembly and the voice coil.

16. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 14 wherein~~ the planar member is mounted adjacent said opposing surface of the disc.

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 13 wherein~~ the wall has an inner diameter and an outer diameter, and the disc has a diameter greater than said outer diameter such that the disc defines a flange around the wall.

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 14 wherein said~~ the opposing surface of the disc is provided with at least one ~~or more~~ continuous ridges extending around the wall.

19. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 18, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 18 wherein~~ the at least one continuous ridge~~s are~~ is concentric with the wall.

20. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 14 wherein~~ the wall is provided with a radially extending flange for engaging the magnet assembly.

21. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which ~~The driver assembly as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the~~ an outer diameter of the wall decreases in a direction away from the disc.

Claims 22- 30 (Cancelled).

Please add the following new claims:

31. (New) Driver apparatus for driving a distributed mode loudspeaker, the driver apparatus comprising:

an actuator operable to move in dependence on an acoustic signal; and

a coupler formed of a resilient material, the coupler being configured to, in use, couple movement of the actuator to an acoustic radiator to cause the acoustic radiator to operate in a distributed mode fashion, in which the coupler has a Shore A hardness of no more than 20.

32. (New) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the coupler engages with the actuator.

33. (New) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the coupler is configured to engage with the acoustic radiator.

34. (New) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the coupler defines a substantially planar surface configured to engage with a surface of the acoustic radiator.

35. (New) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the actuator is operative in dependence upon an electrical signal.

36. (New) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the actuator comprises a moving coil actuator.

37. (New) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the resilient material comprises a polymer.

38. (New) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the resilient material comprises a gel.

39. (New) Apparatus according to claim 31, in which the coupler defines a substantially planar surface that is configured to removably engage with a surface of the acoustic radiator.